



Date: July 23, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending July 23, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending July 23, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Fire, Police, and Health and Human Services

Police, Fire and the Health and Human Services Bioterrorism Unit responded to a possible biological hazard incident at the U.S. Post Office at 2300 Redondo. Laboratory testing confirmed the substance was not hazardous.

Fire, Operations Bureau

Three separate Strike Teams were deployed to three separate fire incidents within Los Angeles County, Pine Fire, Foothill Fire and Crown Fire. In each incident, five engines, a Battalion Chief and an aide were dispatched. While these engine companies were deployed to protect Long Beach's neighbors, Fire staffed reserve apparatus and backfilled all Long Beach Fire Stations to maintain emergency services to the public.

Health and Human Services

On July 17, the City's Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee sponsored a symposium, "Universal Preschool in Long Beach," at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. The event was attended by almost 200 people representing family childcare, child development centers and foundations. Keynote speaker Karen Hill-Scott provided a vision of universal pre-school in Los Angeles County, with special emphasis on the City of Long Beach's needs and the demonstrated collaboration of Long Beach-based agencies to bring universal preschool to the city.

Library Services

The Friends of the Long Beach Public Library held its annual Blanche Collins Forum on July 17 at the Main Library. The featured speaker was award-winning journalist and radio host of KPCC's *Talk of the City*, Kitty Felde. It was a lively and informative discussion with 60 people in attendance.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Community Development, Neighborhood Services Bureau

On July 17, the Neighborhood Services Bureau hosted the 6th annual Neighborhood Leadership Program Conference at Long Beach City College. One hundred and fifty neighborhood residents participated in the six workshop sessions. City Clerk Larry Herrera was the keynote speaker. Fifty community and City agencies participated in the morning resource fair. The conference is a component of the Neighborhood Leadership Program and serves as an opportunity to link neighborhood residents to resources that will assist them to continue to improve their communities. The conference provided an opportunity for participants to network and enhance their leadership skills.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Public Works Department, Airport

The Airport's Runway 12/30 Rehabilitation Project is progressing according to schedule. On the weekend of **July 23 -25**, work will continue at the south end of the runway and the truck haul route will continue along Spring Street to the 405 via Redondo and Willow. During the following weekend, July 30 - August 1, the repair work will be focused on the center portion of the runway. In order to better facilitate the delivery of asphalt to the work site, the truck haul route will be along Cherry Avenue, between the I-405 Freeway and Wardlow Road. As a reminder, for the next three Saturdays all commercial airline arrivals and departures will occur on the alternate Runway 7L/25R.

Fire, Marine Safety Division

On **July 23 and 24**, the Fire Department will host the 2004 California Surf Life Saving Association Western Regional Junior Lifeguard Competition. Over 2,000 Junior Lifeguard participants will compete in various events and over 5,000 parents and spectators are anticipated for the event.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On **Saturday, July 24**, Silverado Park will host an NFL Sports Legends Football Clinic for youth ages 7 -13 years old. The clinic will include former pro football players from the Dallas Cowboys, Tony Hill, Dennis Thurman, and Ed "Too Tall" Jones. The players will provide photos and autographs. The clinic will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public.

Port

The Port of Long Beach is featured in the upcoming *Extreme Engineering* series to be broadcast on the Discovery Channel at 9 p.m. on **Monday, July 28**. The hour-long program focuses on the challenges presented by the new megaships that carry the equivalent of 6,000 to 8,500 20-foot cargo containers. The program explores the challenges of moving such ships safely into and out of harbors, of loading and unloading the ships, and of moving record volumes of cargo across the nation under deadline pressure. Long Beach's Jacobsen Pilot Service, Foss Maritime's tugs, the Hanjin container terminal on Pier T, and ILWU workers are featured extensively in the program.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

The \$150,000 Long Beach Open will be held on **Sunday, July 25**, at El Dorado Golf Course.

AWARDS

Health and Human Services

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognized the City's Lead-based Paint Hazard Control and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs with a best practice award as a part of its annual *Lead-Safe...For Kids' Sake* competition. Long Beach was one of 70 cities recognized nationally in this program category.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Police

In response to a recent increase in violent and gang-related crime, the West Division coordinated a crime suppression task force within the Anaheim Corridor and portions of South and East Divisions on July 15 through July 17. The operation was designed to provide a suppressive and proactive presence within high crime areas and allow for rapid, effective and efficient response to crimes in progress. The operation resulted in 28 felony and 37 misdemeanor arrests. Officers issued 71 traffic citations, towed 13 vehicles, filed 28 reports, conducted nearly 158 field interviews and recovered one gun.

During a search warrant operation, Narcotics Detectives arrested seven suspects and identified seven additional suspects whose arrests are pending.

Fire

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,219 emergency calls for service; 112 calls were for fires and 21 calls involved structures. It also responded to 749 emergency medical calls; 506 required paramedics.

Fire, Prevention Bureau

Plans for the Queen Mary's Halloween "Shipwreck" event were submitted to Fire Prevention for review and approval. This event will take place at various locations on the Queen Mary, the Dome and exterior property.

A tract map was submitted, and review initiated, for the Douglas Park Development project at 3855 Lakewood Boulevard. The plans show 349 proposed individual lots.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Library Services

A grand re-opening celebration was held at the El Dorado Neighborhood Library on July 16 to thank the many people who were involved in the improvements and ADA upgrades. Balloons highlighted the various changes including the new carpet, restroom upgrades, new railing on the entrance ramp, and the new circulation desk. The celebration was the culmination of more than four years of planning that involved staff from Public Works, Human Resources, and Library Services.

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NEIGHBORHOODS (Continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

During the week of July 19-July 23, more than 5,000 patrons enjoyed the performances the Municipal Band, which featured music from 1950 to 1969. The concert included selections of Elvis Presley and Leonard Bernstein's, "West Side Story." The ever-popular Tony Galla joined the Studio Band to conclude the evening.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

Access improvements under the Americans with Disabilities Act are under construction at El Dorado Regional, MacArthur, Silverado and Whaley Parks.

Plans to renovate the Silverado Park swimming pool and to add locker rooms, restrooms, and staff offices to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park swimming pool have received their Fire Department approvals. Final approval of building permits is pending and construction bidding should begin in late summer.

Construction bidding is underway for the bicycle path connection from the regional bicycle path on the Los Angeles River levee (known as the LARIO Trail) to the Civic Center and Bike Station. This route will utilize the 7th Street underpass of Shoreline Drive and connect with Cesar E. Chavez Park along 6th Street before connecting to the Civic Center via Chestnut Avenue.

Community Development, Neighborhood Resources

On July 15, the Neighborhood Resource Center hosted a 'Tenant Rights: Unlock Your Door to a Healthy Environment' workshop. Representatives from Fair Housing Foundation and Department of Health and Human Services spoke to 26 residents about various issues including fair housing laws, tenant/landlord obligations, lead, mold and safety. This was the third and final workshop in the series with translation available in Spanish and Khmer.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community Development, Economic Development Bureau

Economic Development Bureau staff hosted 120 Long Beach business guests during the Olympic Team Trials July 7 through 14. Separate events were held for each of five business clusters, including medical, real estate, top employers, financial services and automotive. The Mayor, City Management and Economic Development Bureau Staff joined business guests in the City's suite. Staff distributed information on Business Development Center programs and economic development activities in the City.

Staff met with the Hispanic Business Association (HBA) on July 15 to discuss Business Development Center programs and services. The HBA agreed to assist the Bureau in planning the Business Conference scheduled for March 2005.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (continued)

A presentation was made to the Amer-I-Can graduating class of 2004 at Long Beach City College on July 16. The Amer-I-Can program assists high-risk youth with developing life skills and obtaining a job.

Staff promoted programs and services offered at the Business Development Center at the Neighborhood Leadership Conference 2004 on July 17. .

The City's Enterprise Zone Tax Incentive Program continues to benefit the local business community. For the period July 5 - July 16, 152 Enterprise Zone vouchers were issued to 16 companies. This brings the year-to-date total to 3,948 vouchers issued to 194 companies. Each voucher represents the hiring of an economically disadvantaged person.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Lokahi Outrigger Sprint Race, with an estimated attendance of 500, was held on July 17 at the beach at Granada.

"Sonido," a Latin tropical dance event, with an estimated attendance of 3,000, was held on July 17 at the Queen Mary Dome.

A "Jazz by the Bay" event, with an estimated attendance of 2,500, was held on July 22 at Queen Mary Special Events Park.

Canterbury Productions, with a cast and crew of 150, shot "Joan of Arcadia" on July 20 and 22 at 2300 E. 3rd St. and Junipero Avenue and Dawson Avenue.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Marine Bureau

The Marine Bureau and Maintenance Operations Bureau worked with the Long Beach Rowing Association to host the Southwest Regional Rowing Regatta in Marine Stadium on July 18.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

A mural dedication of "Embrace the Arts" was held on July 19 at the Mary Butler Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School by the Mural and Cultural Arts program. The Mary Butler Jazz Band performed at the dedication. The mural was a series of nine fence art murals by lead artist Guillermo Avalos. Nineteen students assisted painting the murals with Avalos and twenty-one students modeled for the murals. The Community Development Neighborhood Services Bureau and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine sponsored the project.

On July 23, Discover Long Beach Parks celebrated the volunteer work provided by 110 children of Whittier Elementary School by hosting a picnic at MacArthur Park. During the past year, the children of Whittier Elementary School have made bird feeders for the trees, painted the tot lot benches and painted the floor of the patio with hopscotch and foursquare courts.

SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

More than 150 neighbors attended an ice cream social at Rancho Los Cerritos on July 18. Planned by Rancho staff working with a steering committee from the neighborhood, the event was designed to introduce--or reintroduce--nearby residents to the site and program offerings. In addition to "make your own ice cream sundaes," guests played games, participated in a water balloon toss contest, toured the house, and viewed a historical video and archival photos on the Rancho.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Human Resources Department

On July 21, the Civil Service Commission issued a seniority listing (Order of Layoff) for positions being eliminated in accordance with the Three-Year Financial Strategic Plan. To avoid layoffs, impacted employees may be transferred to vacant positions within their classification or to vacancies in new classifications. The Order of Layoff will facilitate movement of impacted employees to new classifications in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

Public Works, Street Maintenance

Staff installed 204 sidewalk patches, repaired 325 potholes and trimmed 381 trees citywide.

Long Beach Energy, Construction/Engineering

During the first six months of 2004, construction crews installed 450 new gas service lines and five miles of new gas service and main pipelines. In addition, a total of nineteen old gas valves were removed and nine new ones installed.

Major overhaul of 33 bridges supporting natural gas pipelines that affect the entire infrastructure of the City's pipeline system were completed from January to June 2004. Crews worked throughout the city, including the Port of Long Beach, to replace pipe supports, pipe coatings and emergency response numbers.

Long Beach Energy is presently upgrading the cathodic protection corrosion control system. This complex, data gathering, monitoring, and the associated field equipment that constitutes the protection system, is one of several measures taken to track and prevent corrosion in the city's many underground pipes. This overhaul is expected to take three to four years to complete.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

A total of 2,818 service calls, including 876 Gas and Water Utility Turn Ons and 870 Turn Offs were completed. In addition, 797 Customer Service Orders were completed for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 275 meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed.

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OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE (continued)

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

Gas Control/Dispatch (a 24/7 operation) received 404 emergency phone calls that resulted in 87 emergency orders being sent out.

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